

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GABORO 00119 121430Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 TRSE-00 /087 W

-----121517Z 018202 /44

R 121245Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9283

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF BC RH

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE ON RHODESIAN REFUGEE INFLUX

REF: GABORONE 86

1. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED PRESS RELEASE REGARDING JAN 6 ENTRY INTO BOTSWANA OF 314 RHODESIAN REFUGEES. TEXT AS FOLLOWS: ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 314 REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA REPORTED TO THE BOTSWANA POLICE AT VARIOUS CENTRES IN BOTSWANA. THE NUMBERS WHO REPORTED WERE AS FOLLOWS: BOBONG 141, D SEMOLALE 102, TSHESSEBE 61, MAITENGWE 5 AND FRANCISTOWN 5.

2. QTE: THE ARRIVAL OF THESE BROUGHT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RHODESIAN REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA TO 859. THE REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTRE IN FRANISTOWN IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 300 PEOPLE AND THE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE IS THEREFORE GROSSLY INADEQUATE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GABORO 00119 121430Z

EM QTE: THE REFUGEES WHEN INTERVIEWED BY THE POLICE HAVE SAID THAT DURING MARCH LAST YEAR A DISRICTOFFICER AND SENIOR CHIEF TOURED THEIR AREAS AND INFORMED THEM THAT THE ABLE BODIESD MEN WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO DO MILITARY SERVICE AT A LATER DATE. )LAST WEEK OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE SMITH REGIME TOURED THESE AREAS AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD RETURN NEXT WEEKT TO COLLECT THEM FOR TRAINING AND SERVICE IN SMITH S SECURITY FORCES.

AS THEY WERE NOT PRPE PREPARED TO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR OWN  
PEIPLN THEY SOUGHT REFUGEE IN BOTSWANA.

4.

4. QUOTE THERE HAD BEEN ALLEGATIONS BY THE SMITH REGIME THAT  
105 RHODESIANS WERE ABDUCTED BY ARMED FREEDOM FIGHTERS FROM  
A BEERHALL WHICH IS SITUATED IN THE BORDER AREA NORTH OF  
SEMOLALE. ALL THE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE  
BUT NO EVIDENCE HAS BEEN FOUND TO SUPPORT THE ABDUCTION  
STORY. UNQTE.  
ALBERTI

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, KIDNAPPING, PRESS RELEASES, POLICE FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GABORO00119  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770011-1194  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GABORONE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770160/aaaacafr.tel  
**Line Count:** 73  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 63fe2edb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 GABORONE 86  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3619570  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE ON RHODESIAN REFUGEE INFLUX  
**TAGS:** SREF, BC, RH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/63fe2edb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009